

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA



MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE (MESW)

**Government of Ghana's Response to United States Department of Labour's Report on Child /  
Forced Labour in Foreign Countries**

**May, 2011**

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## List of Acronyms

CLU	Child Labour Unit
CCLMS	Community Child Labour Monitoring System
CLMS	Child Labour Monitoring System
CGS	Capitation Grant Scheme
CBFMC	Community-Based Fisheries Management Committee
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
FASDEP	Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy
FSCBP	Fisheries Sub-Sector Capacity Building
FCUBE	Free Compulsory, Universal Basic Education
GPRS	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GOG	Government of Ghana
GCLS	Ghana Child Labour Survey
GEA	Ghana Employers' Association
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GES	Ghana Education Service
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GJA	Ghana Journalist Association
HAF	Hazardous Child Labour Activity Framework
ICVB	International Cocoa Verification Board
ILAB	Bureau of International Labour Affairs
ILO	International Labour Organization
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly
MTDPF	Medium Term Development Policy Framework
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MESW	Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NSPS	National Social Protection Strategy
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NSC	National Steering Committee
NPECLC	National Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Cocoa Sector
NPA	National Plan of Action
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
SOMOPAC	Social Mobilization Partners Against Child Labour
TVPRA	Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
WACAP	West Africa Cocoa and Commercial Agricultural Project
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Report is the Government of Ghana response to the report on The *List of Goods Produced by Child or Forced Labor* required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2010 (TVPRA List), issued by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) of the United States Department of Labor (US DOL) in 2010.

## **2.0 SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON USDOL REPORT**

### **2.1 GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN GOLD MINING**

The TVPRA cited Gold from Ghana, among the list of products that the ILAB has reason to believe are produced by child labour. This is not a fair assessment because 90% of Ghana's gold is produced by multinational regulated companies where children are not engaged.

#### **➤ Gold Mining in Ghana**

Gold is mined in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Western Regions of Ghana. Records at the Minerals Commission indicate that 269 prospecting and 91 reconnaissance licenses have been granted for gold exploration as at 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. Additionally, 55 Mining leases for the mining of gold were valid as at 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

In addition to the large-scale producers, Section 82 -99 of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), provides an opportunity for small scale miners to regularize their activities by acquiring licenses to mine gold and other minerals.

Child labour is non-existent in the regulated large scale mining companies and to a large extent licensed small scale mines. It is within the illegal sector that children's participation is known to exist.

The Ghana Child Labour Survey (GCLS 2003), the most authentic official information on the state of child labour in Ghana, estimates the number of children participating in Mining and Quarrying activities as 10,574.

It is unlawful under the Children's Act 1998 (Act 560) and the Labour Act 2003 (Act 651) to employ anybody below the age of 18 years in any mining activity in Ghana. The Minerals and Mining Act 2006 (Act 703), also prohibits granting of licenses to persons below 18 years for the operation of small scale mines.

The use of the term "illegal gold mining" (galamsey), as indicated in your report refers to the artisanal mining sub sector where children incidentally participate. This illegality connotes the fact that it is an activity frowned upon by the Government of Ghana. Hence a number of interventions are being pursued to address the challenge.

#### **➤ Interventions to Address Child Labour in Gold Mining**

- i. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has put in place the following measures to reduce illegal mining where child labour occurs:
- Sensitization and Education of small-scale miners and prospective small-scale miners on mining policies, the need to regularize their operations and the safety precautions;
  - Establishment of a revolving loan scheme of 700,000 Ghana Cedis has so far been made available to organized small scale mining groups, specifically, Konongo-Odumasi Cooperative Society (Konongo), Ekom YeYa Cooperative Society (Bibiani) and Talensi-Nabdam Small Scale Miners Association (Bolgatanga);
  - Establishment of an Alternative livelihood projects by both the Government and mining companies to provide decent alternative livelihoods to mining communities, such as oil palm plantation (Prestea), grass cutter and snail rearing amongst others;
  - Setting up of the National Security Sub-Committee to clamp down on illegal mining;
  - Reservation of 66 designated sites for the exclusive access by prospective small scale miners country wide, for effective standardization and supervision;
  - Geological investigation of some of the designated areas to make it attractive to small scale miners and to allow for periodic supervision and monitoring;

All the above activities are targeting illegal mining operations where child labour could be used.

- ii. The Government of Ghana collaborated with the ILO Capacity Building Project to withdraw and mainstream 450 children engaged in illegal gold mining activities in the Obuasi Municipality into formal education and vocational training, between 2003 and 2006.
- iii. Under the National Time Bound Programme, a total of 2,750 children were withdrawn and prevented from illegal mining operations between 2005 and 2009 in 2 mining municipalities and 1 district namely: Obuasi and Tarkwa-Nsuem Municipalities and the Talensi Nabdam District, (700 withdrawn and 2050 prevented). The children were mainstreamed into formal education and vocational training and supported with school and training materials. Parents of the supported children were also provided with livelihood opportunities to sustain their families and children in school.
- iv. The Ghana Employers' Association (GEA), is collaborating with selected MMDAs to address child labour in illegal mining (October 2009 and ongoing).
- v. District Assemblies in endemic areas such as Tarkwa and Obuasi are collaborating with local NGOs to develop and implement community action plans to address the issue of child labour in illegal mining.
- vi. Under the National Plan of Action (NPA), mining and quarrying is one of the priority areas the Government of Ghana will be focusing its attention.

## ***New Interventions in the Mining Sector***

In addition to the above interventions which were reported on in 2009, the following new interventions are being implemented to address the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the mining sector:

- i. Through the ILO/IPEC ECOWAS I Support Project to the Government of Ghana interventions are being implemented to address the use of children in illegal mining (gallamsey) activities in **6 Districts in 5 Regions of Ghana. They are:**

### ***Western Region:***

Trakwa Nsueam Municipality/Prestea Huni Valley District  
Wassa Amenfi West District

### ***Greater Accra Region:***

Ga South District (Quarrying)

### ***Ashanti Region:***

Amansie West District

### ***Brong Ahafo Region:***

Asutifi District

### ***Upper West Region***

Talensi-Nabdam District

## **The Interventions seek to Address the following Issues**

- Children in Worst Forms of child labour (particularly in hazardous small scale mining /galamsey and quarry activities) and those at-risk totalling 2276 identified, prevented, withdrawn, and rehabilitated
  - 1138 to be identified, rehabilitated/withdrawn
  - 1138 at-risk to be prevented
  - Vulnerable parents/guardians with wards in child labour totalling 300 identified and empowered through Social Protection strategies and decent work opportunities
  - Targeted Districts are benefiting from sensitization, education and are being mobilized to fight child labour
  - Mandated institutions, including local government structures are being supported to mainstream child labour issues in their policies and development programmes
  - Massive degradation of farmlands
- ii. The Government of Ghana continuous to show commitment in addressing the problem by listing child labour in illegal mining as one of the areas being addressed under the National Plan of Action approved by Cabinet in 2010, to tackle the problem in a holistic manner.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MESW to:

- provide leadership for the development of implementation modalities, including Action Plans, designation of Child Labour Focal Person(s) for the conduct of all actions assigned to it under the NPA;
- mainstream the relevant NPA actions into its Sectoral Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation framework, as well as its budget and resource allocation scheme; and
- share reports of implementation of its actions under the NPA with the Labour Department and will be responsive to the monitoring and evaluation scheme of the NPA;
- apply standard procedures, protocols and guidelines for dealing with the WFCL in the areas of mining and quarrying (i.e. implement a Programme for the Elimination of the WFCL in the Mining and Quarrying sector).

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is currently putting together an Action Plan together with its technical agency (Minerals' Commission) to implement the NPA interventions.

In view of the above, it is not fair for Gold from Ghana to continue to be listed in the TVPRA.

## **2.2 GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN FISHERIES**

### **➤ Fish Production in Ghana**

Fish is obtained from three sources:

- Culture Fisheries: This is mainly farming of fish in ponds, cages, pens, reservoirs, raceways, etc;
- Culture-based Fisheries: This is when the water has multiple uses other than for fisheries purposes. Usually the activities are carried out in water reservoirs like small dams.
- Capture Fisheries: This involves hunting for the fish in the wild (i.e. Inland and Marine). It is within this sector that child labour and forced labour are known to exist.

The GCLS 2003 estimates 49,185 children to be engaged in economic activities in the fishing sub-sector.

### **➤ Interventions to Address Forced and Child Labour in Fisheries**

Pursuant to the relevant laws, the following measures have been adopted to address the issues in fisheries:



- i. The Government of Ghana, in collaboration with some international and national NGOs has withdrawn, rehabilitated and re-integrated over 2,857 children from fishing along the Volta Lake.
- ii. Government is also promoting aqua-culture for the production of fish in the Volta Lake. This effort has a potential to reduce the involvement of children in fish production.
- iii. Six District Child Labour Committees and 60 Community Child Labour Committees were established in identified child labour endemic communities to monitor, advocate and mobilize their communities against child labour
- iv. As a result of the School Feeding Programme and other interventions, nine districts along the Volta Lake have recorded an average of 92.7% increase in school enrolment between 2007 and 2008.
- v. Capacities of government MDAs such as the Judiciary, the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Attorney General's Department, Social Partners and CSOs, are continuously being built to contribute to the overall combat of child labour in Ghana.
- vi. The principal agency, Ministry of Food and Agriculture has since 2008, initiated:
  - Sensitization programmes for its key staff at the National, Regional and District staff on child labour related issues and their roles and responsibilities in addressing the problem;
  - Appointed and trained National, Regional and District Child Labour Desk Officers as focal persons country-wide. A data on them has been created at the Directorate of Extension Services;
  - Child Labour has been mainstreamed into the FASDEP (Food and Agricultural Sector development Policy);
  - Integrating Child Labour into their Strategic Plan to provide guidance and direction in the solution of child labour in agriculture.
- vii. From 1995, the Government of Ghana under the Fisheries Sub-Sector Capacity Building Project (FSCBP) implemented the concept of Community-based Fisheries Management Committees (CBFMC) to ensure community participation in the management of the beaches and the lake.
 

A key activity of the CBFMC is the prevention of children of school-going age from loitering along the beaches and the lake during school hours. Twenty-five (25) MMDAs have incorporated the CBFMC activities into their bye-laws.
- viii. The CBFMC concept was replicated since 2003, under the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihood Programme (SFLP)-GCP/INT/735/UK, in some communities along the Volta

Lake to reduce poverty in the inland fishery communities by introducing alternative livelihood programmes and micro-credit schemes to the people dependent on fishery and aquatic resources.

### **New Interventions in the Fisheries Sector**

New interventions, in addition to the above information provided in the 2009 report include the following:

- i. Collaboration with the ILO/IPEC-ECOWAS I Project to implement an intervention in the fisheries sector titled 'Support to the National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of child labour (WFCL) in Fishing industry in Ghana'.

The intervention is being carried out in the following three regions and seven districts:

#### **Volta Region**

Kpando District

Krachie West District

Jasikan District

#### **Greater Accra**

Dangme East District

Ga South District

#### **Central Region**

Mfantseman District

Gomoa District

The intervention seeks to achieve the following:

- 1,000 child victims of trafficking, 6 to 14 years of age will be assisted with transitional basic functional literacy activities, non-formal education, pre-vocational/ vocational /technical, or skills training programmes according to preference. They will be provided with school subsidies (uniforms, footwear, bags, school stationery, tools, start-up kit etc.).
- 137 child victims of trafficking, 15 to 18 years old, will have their working conditions made safer (life-jackets etc.) and will have access to educational alternatives such as vocational/technical skills training according to preference.
- A total of 1,137 children below 12 years of age, from the sending districts be mainstreamed into the formal education system and provided with school subsidies (uniforms, footwear, bags, school stationery etc.), pre-school literacy support and will benefit from the capitation grant and the school feeding programme.
- A total of 100 families of the beneficiary children in the selected districts will have received counseling services on good parenting, life-skills training, marketable vocational

or income generating activities/additional livelihood training (according to preference) to empower them economically and also to reduce their dependence on children's earnings

ii. Child Labour in the fisheries sector continuous to be a worry to the Government. It is there one of the nine sectors prioritized under the National Plan of Action (Approved by Cabinet in 2010) and is being addressed. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has also signed MOU with the MESW to carry out the following:

- provide leadership for the development of implementation modalities, including Action Plans, designation of Child Labour Focal Person(s) for the conduct of all actions assigned to it under the NPA;
- mainstream the relevant NPA actions into its Sectoral Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation framework, as well as its budget and resource allocation scheme; and
- share reports of implementation of its actions under the NPA with the Labour Department and will be responsive to the monitoring and evaluation scheme of the NPA;
- build the capacity of staff of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, create awareness and sensitize clients (Farmers, fishermen, etc) on child labour issues and mobilize them to initiate actions against the practice;
- in collaboration with MOWAC, MLGRD, LGSS, MDAs and MMDAs will develop and implement training modules for on-farm and off-farm season income generating activities;
- collaboration with the MMDAs and other partners apply the standard procedures and protocols developed by the MESW in collaboration with other partners in the Agriculture, other than fisheries sector;
- support the Fisheries Commission to apply the standard procedures and protocols developed by the MESW in collaboration with other partners in the Fisheries sector (i.e. Implement a Programme for the Elimination of the WFCL in the Fisheries sector).

### ➤ Conclusion

The National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana has identified the fisheries sector as one of the main priority sectors to be addressed and putting in place the necessary mechanisms to launch a big intervention in that sector, as well as coordinate the activities of other partners including International Organisation on Migration (IOM), Challenging Heights, etc.

## 3.0 GHANA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ELIMINATION OF ALL WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

## ➤ **Interventions to Address Child Labour in Ghana**

The Government of Ghana recognizes the problem of child labour and is committed to addressing the issue in all sectors and has, in collaboration with national and international partners, put in place interventions to address the problem in the areas of policy, legislation and programmes.

### **3.1 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1.1 National Development Policy**

The National Development Policy Framework (Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II 2006-2009) has the issue of child labour mainstreamed into it. This provided the guidelines for the development and implementation of programmes to address the issue.

With GPRS II coming to an end, the Government of Ghana in collaboration with Developmental Partners and Civil Society Organizations is working to ensure that Child Labour and its Worst Forms is adequately addressed in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013) and Guidelines for the preparation of Sectoral Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs).

#### **3.1.2 Other Policy Interventions**

##### ➤ **The National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS)**

The Government has developed and is implementing the NSPS and its flagship programme the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) to enhance the well-being of the poor, vulnerable and excluded. The programme targets orphans, vulnerable children (OVCs) and their caregivers. The OVCs have the potential to move into the labour force prematurely. The WFCL is both a criteria and conditionality for selecting beneficiary districts and household. A beneficiary household is assisted to withdraw their children from the WFCL and enroll them in school.

##### ➤ **Education Sector Programmes**

To ensure that all Ghanaian children of school-going age are provided with quality formal education and training, the Government of Ghana, has made Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) a constitutional right. This has been translated into the FCUBE policy. Under the Policy the following programmes are being implemented:

##### ➤ **Capitation Grant Scheme (CGS)**

The Scheme, piloted in 2003/04 in 53 deprived districts, was extended nationwide in 2004/05 to all public basic schools in Ghana. Under the Scheme, all forms of fees/levies being paid at the basic level in public schools by parents were absorbed by the Government. The Grant has since made tremendous impact on school enrolment and retention.

#### ➤ **Early Childhood Development Policy**

The Policy developed in 2004, seeks to address the holistic development of the child and promote inter-sectoral planning for the welfare of children. Under the Policy, kindergarten has been mainstreamed into basic education. This has encouraged parents to take their “at risk” young children to kindergarten instead of their workplaces which exposes them to hazards.

#### ➤ **The Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)**

The aim of the Programme is to increase access to and participation in quality education, retain and improve attendance of children in school and also to reduce hunger and mal-nutrition among school children. The programme covers about 645,000 school children in selected deprived schools across the country with a target of one million (1,000,000) children by 2010.

All the above interventions have contributed to increase in enrolment and retention of children in school. Gross Enrolment Ratio in Pre-school increased from 60.14% in 2004/05 to 83.6 in 2006/07 and to 89.9% in 2007/08. There was also an increase in Gross Enrolment Ratio in Primary from 87.50 in 2004/05 to 93.7 in 2006/07 and further to 95.2% in 2007/08 academic year. The same indicator for JSS increased from 70.3% in 2004/05 to 74.8% in 2006/07 and to 78.8% in 2007/08.

In addition to the above, other interventions being developed include the following:

- i. Complementary Education to provide appropriate, equitable and skillful basic education opportunities for all out-of-school children, especially girls in hard-to-reach areas of the country. The programme is an intermediary step to mainstream children who have dropped out of school including those engaged in child labour into the formal education system.
- ii. A Two-Year Apprenticeship for Graduates of Junior High School being introduced in the New Education Reforms to acquire employable skills, in order not to fall prey to the WFCL at that age.

#### ➤ **Supply of School Uniforms to Children of Public Basic Schools**

The current Government is in the process of providing school uniforms to children in public basic schools in deprived communities as a complement to efforts by other Civil Society Organisations.

### **3.1.3 Other Interventions**

1. In addition to the above the education sector has adopted ILO's methodology and tools called "Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts and Media" (SCREAM) to promote child participation in addressing the issue of child labour.
2. The establishment of the Girl Child education Unit of GES has the potential to reduce child labour since girls drop out from schools and engage in child labour activities.

These programmes are also meant to provide opportunity for children from extreme poor and vulnerable households who are likely to engage in the WFCL to go to schools.

### ➤ **The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)**

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), introduced in 2002, seeks to strengthen the health delivery system, to improve access to basic health care services to vulnerable groups, especially children. The Scheme has outlined measures to detach child access to the NHIS services from the registration of parents to enhance the access of children to health care.

## **3.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CHILD LABOUR**

### **3.2.1 International Legal Response**

Ghana ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, in recognition of children's right. This was followed with the development of a National Plan of Action dubbed, 'The Child Cannot Wait', in June 1992, to provide critical policy framework, strategies and programmes, to meet the urgent needs of children. The Government also promptly ratified the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C. No. 182), in June 2000; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

### **3.2.1 National Legislation**

Ghana has had provisions for the protection of children as far back as 1967 when the Labour Decree, (NLCD 157), was promulgated. The 1992 Constitution guarantees the protection of children from engaging in any work that constitutes a threat to their health, education or development.

The Children's Act, 1998, (Act 560) seeks to protect the rights of children, including the right to education, health and shelter, and proscribes the engagement of children in exploitative labour, in line with Article 28(2) of the Constitution. Section 91 of Act 560, prohibits the engagement of children below 18 years in hazardous work and provides a list of hazardous activities. The Act also sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years, to coincide with the age for completion of basic education.

The other provisions include the Criminal Code Amendment Act 1998 (Act 554); the Juvenile Justice Administration Act, 2003 (Act 653) the Human Trafficking Act 2005 (Act 694), the Whistle Blower's Act, 2006 (Act 720) and the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 (Act 732) have further strengthened the legal framework for protecting children from exploitation.

Section 58 of the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651), prohibits the engagement of 'Young Persons' '.....in any type of employment or work likely to expose the person to physical or moral hazard' Part VII, Section (3) further prohibits the engagement of Young Persons, defined as 'Person above 18 years and below 21 years' in any hazardous undertaking. Sect 58(b) specifically prohibits the engagement of young persons '.....in an underground mine work.'

Section 116 of the Labour Act also prohibits forced labour and defines forced labour as '....service that is exacted from a person under threat of a penalty and for which that person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily....'

Section 83 (b) of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), also prohibits granting of licenses to persons below 18 years for the operation of small scale mines.

To ensure the implementation of the above legal provisions the Government in collaboration with Development Partners is building the capacity of the law enforcement agencies to enforce the laws and regulations.

### **3.3 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR**

The following are a few institutions put in place to ensure the protection of children:

- i. Establishment of the Ghana National Commission on Children (Now Department of Children) and the creation of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to deal with children's issues;
- ii. Establishment of a 34-member multi-sectoral National Steering Committee (NSC) on child labour in 2000, to serve as a policy advisor on child labour: reviewing interventions; and making recommendations to government;
- iii. Creation of the Child Labour Unit (CLU) within the Labour Department in 2000, as the focal and coordinating point for all child labour issues and a Secretariat of the National Steering Committee on Child Labour;
- iv. Establishment of the Programme Secretariat to coordinate the National Programme for the Elimination of the WFCL in Cocoa (NPECLC);
- v. A Child Labour Monitoring System has been established at the Employment and Information Branch of the Labour Department, to collaborate with Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies in the monitoring of child labour and as a tool for social mobilization against child labour;
- vi. Establishment of the Human Trafficking Board to manage trafficking issues to help in the prevention, reduction and the punishment of traffickers and to also provide policy advice under the Human Trafficking Act. The Board has developed a National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking covering 2006 to 2011;

- vii. Establishment of a specialized Domestic Violence and Victim's Support Unit (DOVVSU formally WAJU) within the Ghana Police Service (GPS), to improve law enforcement related to family oriented issues, including child maintenance and care. An Anti-Human Trafficking Unit has also been established within the Service, to handle human trafficking issues. The Ghana Police Service has also developed a Child Labour Training Curriculum for the police administration and Police Training Schools.
- viii. Establishment of the Social Mobilization Partners Against Child labour (SOMOPAC) by the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA). This network has identified and trained selected journalists in both print and electronic media and is actively engaged in media advocacy against child labour and runs a website on child labour.
- ix. Local government institutions, have mainstreamed child labour issues into their District Medium Term Development Plans, as well as developed and managing the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) in selected child labour endemic districts;
- x. Organized Labour and Employers' Organizations have developed sustainable interventions, including, provision of direct support to vulnerable children and families, inclusion of child labour into the Ghana Business Code, development of Codes of Conduct on Child Labour and inclusion of child labour clauses in Collective Bargaining Certificates, among others.
- xi. Establishment of an intervention database on Human Trafficking at MOWAC through Government Civil Society collaboration.

All the above institutions have aggressively developed and implemented various interventions to deal with the issue of child labour.

### **3.4 PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOUR**

Since 2000, the Government of Ghana through the ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, and its Child Labour Unit, and Ghanaian Civil Society Organizations with support from ILO/IPEC and other partners in implementing the following programmes:

- i. Country Programme, 2000 to 2003
- ii. LUTRENA, (West Africa Anti-Child Trafficking Project) from 2001 and ongoing
- iii. West African Cocoa and Commercial Agriculture Project, 2003-2006
- iv. Capacity Building Project, 2003-2006:
- v. Vocational Skills Training Project, 2004 to 2006:
- vi. Project of Support to the National Time Bound Programme, 2004 to 2009:

#### **3.4.1 National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Cocoa Sector**

Ghana in collaboration with national and international partners is implementing a National Programme to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector (NPECLC) since



August 2006. It has seven strategic objectives as follows: Enhancement of the knowledge base about WFCL in cocoa

- i. Strengthening of the legal framework for dealing with WFCL
- ii. Community mobilization for action against WFCL
- iii. Development and implementation of interventions to eliminate WFCL in cocoa
- iv. Promotion of universal basic education
- v. Development and implementation of interventions that reduce the need for child labour in cocoa
- vi. Development of institutional and technical capacities to effectively address child labour in the country

### **3.4.2 National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour In Ghana (2009-2015)**

The National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour has been approved by Cabinet. The NPA is now the national framework to provide the necessary focus and impetus for eliminating all forms of the WFCL in a timely, efficient, effective and sustainable manner.

The overall goal of this National Plan of Action is ‘to reduce the incidence of the WFCL to the barest minimum by 2015, while laying strong social, policy and institutional foundations for the elimination and prevention of all other forms of child labour in the longer term’.

Through stakeholder consultations, Ghana has prioritized the following forms of the WFCL to be tackled as a matter of urgency for its elimination by 2015, under the NPA, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. These are:

- Child trafficking;
- Ritual servitude;
- Domestic servitude;
- Manual handling and transportation of heavy loads;
- Mining and quarrying;
- Agriculture;
- Fisheries;
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation; and
- Street Hawking, including begging

To facilitate the effective implementation of the NPA, the MESW has developed and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with thirty-six (36) relevant stakeholders, including: MDAs and the Social Partners (Employers’ and Worker’s’ Organizations) on their roles and responsibilities in its implementation.

The following areas are receiving priority attention:

- Enforcement of laws;
- Broad-based sensitization and mobilization to promote attitudinal and behaviour change;
- Protection of children and their rights;

- Pursuit of universal basic education and generalization of post-basic education;
- Withdrawal of children below age 15 from child labour and protection of working children aged 15 and above from exploitation and hazardous work;
- Establishment of standard procedures and protocols for dealing with cases of child abuse and exploitation;
- Development of institutional capacities at all levels of government and within civil society to ensure the effective application of established procedures and protocols; and
- Extension of social protection measures to provide safety nets for the most vulnerable households and children.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

It is important to note that *Cabinet has approved the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, which indicates nine priority sectors, including Agriculture (cocoa), gold and fisheries. This is a clear indication of Ghana's commitment to the deploy the needed resources to tackling child labour issues.

The above efforts by the Government of Ghana indicate the seriousness it attaches to the issues of child labour and its commitment to the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the three sectors.

#### 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of Ghana therefore recommends that the:

- listing of the three products (cocoa, gold and fish) from Ghana in the TVPRA List serves to undermine Ghana's efforts to address the issue of the worst forms of child. This will eventually discourage the country and its partners, as well as other countries from putting in place measures to address the problem.
- Cocoa, gold and fish should therefore be removed from the TVPRA List;
- Fish should be taken out of the Executive order in its next review.

**Vltas, Bogdan - ILAB**

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**From:** stella ofori [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2011 4:20 PM  
**To:** Rasa, Tanya - ILAB  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Wolkomir, Elizabeth D - ILAB;  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Addendum to the Response on USDOL Report-Ghana  
**Attachments:** USDOL Response 2011.doc



USDOL Response  
2011.doc

Sorry. Here you are.

Stella, CLU

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "Rasa, Tanya - ILAB" <Rasa.Tanya@dol.gov>  
**To:** stella ofori <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; "Wolkomir, Elizabeth D - ILAB" <Wolkomir.Elizabeth@dol.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri, May 20, 2011 9:06:46 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Addendum to the Response on USDOL Report-Ghana

Hi Stella,

Could you please re-send with the addendum attached?

Thanks,

Tanya

-----Original Message-----

**From:** stella ofori [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2011 3:59 PM  
**To:** Rasa, Tanya - ILAB  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Addendum to the Response on USDOL Report-Ghana

Dear Tanya,

On behalf of the Min. of Employment and Social Welfare, I forward herewith, the attached as an Addendum to the Government of Ghana;s response on the cocoa sector to the TVPRA 2010 report. The Addendum covers response in the Gold and Fihseries sectors for to make it complete for all the three sectors listed for your information and necessary action.

Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Stella Ofori  
Principal Labour Officer  
Child Labour Unit of the Labour Department P. O. Box MB 55 Accra. Ghana  
Tel/Fax: +233-302-664511/2  
Email: [REDACTED]